

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for allocating channels using random plus planned processes is presented.

In one embodiment, the invention is a method of operating a base station. In one embodiment, this includes receiving a request for a first channel, determining whether a channel is available, and communicating to the requestor the channel availability. This may further include denying the request, assigning the first channel or assigning a second channel. This may further include receiving a request for a third or fourth channel upon granting of the first channel. This may also include determining whether a third or fourth channel is available, and communicating to the requestor the third channel availability or fourth channel availability.

In an alternate embodiment, the invention is a method of operating a user terminal. In one embodiment, this includes sending a request for a first channel; and receiving an indication of availability of a channel. This may further include the indication signaling no channel is available. This may also include waiting an inter-channel delay, sending a request for a third channel, and receiving an indication of availability of a channel. Additionally, this may include the indication signaling the third channel is not available, determining no other channels may be requested, waiting an inter-attempt delay, and sending a request for the first channel.